

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-10 DODE-00

PA-02 PRS-01 /094 W

----- 054140

R 311601Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5008

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

UNCLAS LONDON 13696

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR UK

SUBJECT: RAIN IN UK UNLIKELY TO BRING MUCH RELIEF TO
DROUGHT HIT FARMERS

BEGIN SUMMARY. HEAVY RAIN OVER EASTERN, SOUTH-EASTERN,
SOUTHERN, SOUTH-WESTERN AND MIDLAND ENGLAND DURING THE
PAST THREE DAYS WILL HAVE LITTLE IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON
DROUGHT CONDITIONS. EFFECTS ON GENERAL WATER SUPPLIES
WILL BE EVEN LESS SIGNIFICANT. END SUMMARY

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1. OVER THE PAST THREE DAYS ENGLAND FROM THE MIDLANDS

SOUTH AND EAST AND SOUTH WALES HAVE HAD HEAVY RAIN, PROLONGED IN PLACES. GENERAL CONSENSUS OF OPINION, HOWEVER, IS THAT IT HAS COME TOO LATE TO BE OF ANY IMMEDIATE BENEFIT TO DROUGHT STRICKEN FARMS. ONE RAY OF OPTIMISM, HOWEVER, CONCERNS SUGAR BEET. SOME OF THE HEAVIEST RAIN OCCURRED IN EAST ANGLIA AND SUGAR BEET SIZES MAY POSSIBLY NOW BE LARGER THAN EXPECTED.

2. THE RAIN IS BELIEVED TO HAVE COME TOO LATE, HOWEVER, TO HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON POTATOES.

3. IF FURTHER RAIN FALLS AS FORECAST THIS WEEK IT COULD PROVIDE THE MEANS OF REVIVING PASTURES AND PROVIDE SOME MOISTURE FOR AUTUMN SOWINGS.

4. GOVERNMENT WARNS, HOWEVER, THAT HEAVY AND CONTINUOUS RAIN FOR MANY MONTHS WILL BE NEEDED IF RESERVOIRS, UNDERGROUND SOURCES AND GENERAL SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS ARE TO BE RESTORED TO NEAR-NORMAL LEVELS. DANGER IS THAT GENERAL PUBLIC SEEING IT RAIN WILL RELAX THEIR VIGILANCE OVER WATER CONSERVATION.

5. GOVERNMENT HAS STILL NOT ANNOUNCED ANY DEFINITE MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO FARMERS PLEAS FOR AID. THE ONLY MOVE SO FAR INITIATED IS BRINGING FORWARD OF SOME BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION SCHEMES TO SLAUGHTER INFECTED CATTLE EARLIER THAN PLANNED SO THAT THEY WILL NOT REQUIRE FEEDING OUT OF EXTREMELY TIGHT FODDER SITUATION.

ARMSTRONG

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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TAGS: EAGR, UK
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